

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated February 26, 2008, and the Advisory Action dated May 12, 2008. Claims 1 and 10 are amended herein. Claims 19-36 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce claims similar or identical to the cancelled claims in this or a subsequently filed continuation/divisional application. Claims 1-19 are now pending in this application and have been rejected in the Office Action under section 102 or section 103. The rejections are traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

§102 and §103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 9, 10, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lenglet et al. (US 2002/0106538). Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 16, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edlund et al. (US 2001 /0045061) in view of Adiletta (US 200210141910). Applicant generally reiterates the remarks made in response to the Final Office Action and believes the claims before the present amendment are patentable over the prior art of record. Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended herein, however, to recite a process and an apparatus, respectively, in which the second reactor operates or is configured to operate at a steady state in a manner that maintains a substantially constant amount of soot trapped therein as the rate at which soot is gasified in the second reactor substantially equals the rate at which soot is trapped. The process and apparatus recited by amended claims 1 and 10 in which the non-carbonaceous material in the second reactor serves as both a filtering element for soot and a reaction site for the gasification reaction allows the second reactor to operate in a steady state where the rates of soot accumulation and gasification are substantially equal. Applicant believes that the claimed method and apparatus presents numerous advantages over what is described in prior art of record, including the elimination of the need for transporting accumulated soot to a gasification reactor and/or performing separate process steps to regenerate a filter. Applicant further believes that nothing in the references of record would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the claimed process and apparatus and that those references actually teach away from what is claimed. Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that claims 1 and 10 recite new and inventive subject matter. The recitations of dependent claims 2-9 and 11-

18 are asserted to be new and inventive in the context of their combination with the subject matter of claim 1 or claim 10.

Claims 2 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edlund et al. (US 20010045061) and Adiletta (US 200210141910) as applied to claims 1, 10, and 19 above, and Clawson et al. (US 6,641,625). Claims 8 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lenglet et al. (US 200210106538). Claims 4, 5, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lenglet et al. (US 200210106538) in view of Michalko (US 3,714,071). Applicant reiterates the remarks regarding these rejections made in response to the previous Office Action. Applicant believes that the recitations of the dependent claims listed above are patentably significant in the context of their combination with the subject matter recited by the independent claims.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant submits that none of the pending claims are anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (847) 432-7302 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM R. LICHT

By his Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(847) 432-7302

Date July 28, 2008

By J. Kevin Parker
J. Kevin Parker
Reg. No. 33,024

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 28th day of July, 2008.

Mya Saunders
Name

[Signature]
Signature